

USING THE STARS AS GUIDES

Lieutenant Colonel Tilney Learned System From African Natives During the Boer War.

A lecture was recently delivered to members of the Edinburgh university contingent of the officers' training corps by Lieut. Col. W. A. Tilney, F. R. G. S., on a system which he has devised to enable one to find his way at night by using the heavens as a guide, according to the Edinburgh correspondence of the Christian Science Monitor. The lecturer said that during the South African war he had noticed that the natives never lost their way at night. In the night time the bushmen could do anything exactly the same as in daylight. The view was expressed that if they could devise some simple method for finding their way at night it would have a far-reaching influence on warfare.

Colonel Tilney took up the problem and learned from various colonials, Basutos, East Indians and Arabs that they could instinctively read the heavens as a compass. His idea was to work out the exact movements and direction of the largest and most easily distinguishable lights so that the least educated had only to be able to recognize the signs and their whereabouts would be known for every hour of the night, the whole dome of the sky thus becoming a compass. He completed the tables for use in Europe in 1914, and Sir Douglas Haig commended the system to officers and men. Once the rudiments of the system were grasped, one could rely absolutely on the heavens to take one to one's destination. It was only necessary to know three or four first magnitude stars, the exact position of which for every hour of the night was given in the scheme he had drawn up.

THREW MUD AT SPEED FIENDS

Detroit Merchant Made His Own Laws for Motor Car Testers.

Justice Gaiety exonerated Michael Heitz, a Mount Elliott avenue merchant, for his action in throwing mud in the faces of speeding motor car drivers and covering them with a gun. The Detroit News states.

Heitz' nerves seem to have been wrecked by the speed of passing machines. In court he admitted the gun episode when arraigned on a warrant sworn out by Robert Newman, a motor car tester.

Witnesses testified that Heitz threw mud at them as they were passing his place and that in the ensuing battle the gun was drawn.

"Yes, I did it," said Heitz. "Those testers roar past my place, almost kill my customers and spatter mud all over my windows. I got mad and asked them to stop. They only laughed at me, and I took the law into my own hands."

"He held up his hand and I slowed down," said Newman. "Then he let it fly. I was only going about fifteen miles an hour."

"Tell that last to someone else," said the court. "The people of Detroit know testers go faster than fifteen miles; it is more likely fifty miles an hour. Citizens have a right to stop these violators and a violator has little redress."

"He pulled a gun on us," said one of Newman's witnesses.

"Sure, why not?" said Heitz. "After the trouble they came back in a bunch and were going to whip me. I had to protect myself."

More Coming to Him.

There was no doubt about the fact that Jack MacFaddy was a Scotsman last year, when journeying to the country on an important errand, he left his purse, containing nearly \$500 in gold and silver, at the railway station from which he started.

He telegraphed the fact on his arrival and the purse was kept until his return a month later.

It was a young clerk who handed Jackie MacF. his wee purse with the "spondies" as he set foot out of the train, and certain wild hopes were making the young man's heart beat a trifle unevenly.

But our canny Scot counted his money unheeding and when he'd finished he looked up long and suspiciously at the young man.

"Isn't it right, sir?" stammered the latter, in bewilderment.

"Right—Right! It's right enough, but where's the interest, mon?" was MacFaddy's stern retort.—Edinburgh Review.

A Perpetual Motion Plant.

The perpetual motion machine of the botanist is a plant which grows in India. It is never quiet. Its leaves are dancing day and night, and neither the dead atmosphere of a tropical noon nor the soft breezes of twilight are able to soothe it with their restful lullabies. Botanists call it the telegraph plant.

Its motions differ from those of the aspen tree, which is the American type of almost perpetual motion in nature. The aspen leaf is affected by the lightest breeze, and quivers. The leaves of the telegraph plant have a sort of jerking motion.

Each leaf is divided into three leaflets. The outside pair move up and down in nervous little jumps, as if they were being touched and shocked by some electric wire. The middle leaflet isn't quite so lively, but it keeps up a continual motion, never the less.

The only time the plant is quiet is when it is dead.

Complex Bookkeeping.

The one fundamental principle underlying all successful business is that the cost must be less than the selling price. In the operation of this principle agriculture is no exception. Farming, however, is such a complex business, and the different enterprises making up the farm unit are so intricately related, that it requires an expert bookkeeper to juggle the figures and ascertain whether there has been profit or loss.

International Race.

The splitting up of the Rothschild family of Frankfurt into British, French and other branches has been an interesting, though not remarkable phenomenon of the last 150 years of finance, and was recently instanced by the fact that a small French cruiser, that recently removed Germans from a Spanish liner, was formerly a Rothschild yacht.

More Than a Hint.

He was a very shy young man. For two long years he had been paying her attention and had not yet even squeezed her hand.

One evening as they lingered in the shadow of the trees by her gate he asked timidly:

"Florence, would you—might I—er—would you mind if I placed one reverent kiss on your fair hand tonight when I leave you?"

Florence thought he wanted speeding up. So she dropped her head coyly on his shoulder, lifted her face temptingly to his and replied:

"Well, George, I should think it decidedly out of place."—Tit-Bits.

Hold Temper and Tongue.

Hold your temper and your tongue. It is better to say nothing than to say the wrong thing and then have to apologize.

BLUING FIXED THE SCENERY

Water in Lagoon Was Changed From Yellowish Hue to Green.

Three barrels of bluing solved a difficult artistic problem in connection with the staging of Newark's historical pageant, which was given in the amphitheater in Weequahic park for four nights, the New York Times states.

After about 450,000 gallons of water had been run into the lagoon in front of the natural stage it was found that the clay and sand had caused the water to turn yellow. Thomas Wood Stevens, the director, observed that the water must have a green color or the artistic effect of the stage settings would be spoiled.

The lagoon, 300 feet long, 165 feet wide and two feet deep, is one of the main features of the open air stage. It was Mr. Stevens' idea that the lagoon should produce a certain effect in connection with its natural surroundings. He had taken it for granted the water would be green.

When Director Stevens and his assistant, Sam Hume, were going over final details of the amphitheater they were confronted with the yellow water in the lagoon. They were in a quandary as to how to overcome this difficulty, when H. Wellington Wack, executive adviser of the Newark celebration committee, came along. The pageant masters explained the dilemma to Mr. Wack, who suggested the bluing. It worked.

Evidence.

"Not guilty, sir," replied the prisoner.

"Where did you find the prisoner, constable?" asked the magistrate.

"In Trafalgar square, sir," was the reply.

"And what made you think he was intoxicated?"

"Well, sir, he was throwing his walking stick into the basin of one of the fountains and trying to entice one of them stone lions to go and fetch it out again."—Everybody's.

The Truth Comes Out.

Magistrate—What is your occupation?

Prisoner—I'm a member of a hook and ladder company, your honor.

Magistrate—Do you mean to say you are connected with the fire department?

Prisoner—Not exactly, your honor. We used the ladder for getting into windows at night, after which the hooking is done.

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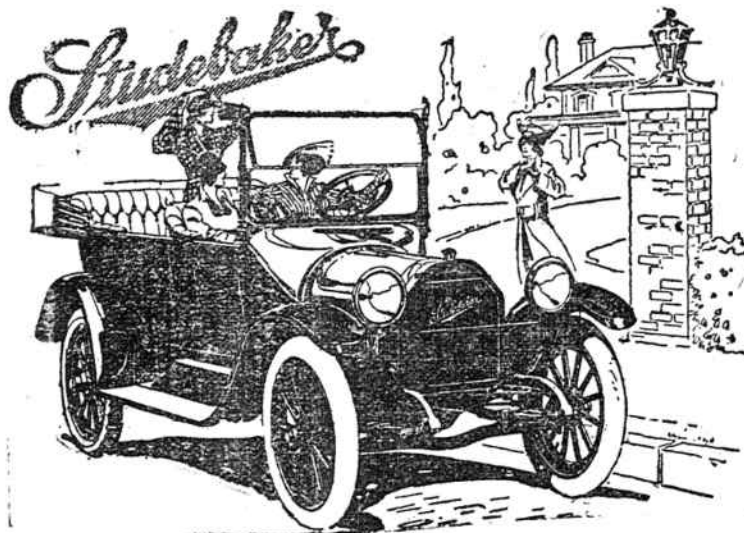
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